

Kentucky Community and Technical College System Special Initiative **Kentucky School of Craft**

What is the Kentucky School of Craft?

The Kentucky School of Craft is a regional community partnership that will provide training for various craft skills, a critical component of the economic development plan of Hindman and Knott Counties. The school will help fulfill the mission of the institution by meeting the needs of students, raising the level of education attainment in the region, preserving the cultural heritage, and promoting economic development.

Why is a program like this needed?

The Kentucky School of Craft is located in southeastern Kentucky, a region rich in artistic culture and heritage. It is designed to create an environment for an artisan that is different from the one that has previously existed. This area has been preparing and developing the necessary infrastructure to accommodate a regional economy based on tourism and cultural heritage. The School of Craft not only will provide a supportive and creative environment to allow artists to pursue their crafts, but it will help develop artists' skills related to marketing, product development, and new technologies to give them a necessary edge in the business world.

Is the community supportive of the Kentucky School of Craft?

Local support for the Kentucky School of Craft is strong. In fact, it was developed as part of and in response to a Community Development Initiative proposal which centered on developing a strong arts-based economy. Specifically, the proposal called for a program of study that would educate artisans in design, technical, and business skills. Hazard Community and Technical College (HCTC) was an important partner in the planning. HCTC developed a branch campus for this purpose and has assumed responsibility for the necessary programming and curriculum.

How has the school been funded to date?

The state has provided funding to support the purchase and renovation of the historic facility that serves as the school's building. The state also provided funding for parking facilities. The Appalachian Regional Commission awarded the school a \$300,000 grant for tools, equipment, and dedicated studio space. In addition, the Windgate Foundation awarded the school \$224,000 for scholarship, materials, student recruitment, and programming.

What is the Council's request?

The Council seeks \$500,000 of recurring funds in FY 2007-08 to support the Kentucky School of Craft.



Photo source: Kentucky Commerce Cabinet

One Mission: Better Lives for Kentucky's People